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In the Office Action mailed May 20, 2003, Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,166,166 issued to Taylor et al. Claims 1-11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph for containing subject matter which was not described in such a way as to reasonably convey that applicants were in possession of the claimed invention at the time of filing of the instant application. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph for containing subject matter which was not described in such a way as to reasonably convey that applicants were in possession of the claimed invention at the time of filing of the instant application. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Examiner made those rejections FINAL.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claims 1-11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph for containing subject matter which was not described in such a way as to reasonably convey that applicants were in possession of the claimed invention at the time of filing of the instant application. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's contention.

Applicants reiterate that sufficient support for the claimed symmetric diol chain extenders may be found, *inter alia*, in the instant specification's Examples, wherein use of a symmetric diol chain extender (1,4-butanediol) is described. The Examiner seems to acknowledge as much at page 2, paragraph numbered 1 of the instant Office Action, wherein he states,

Though applicants have disclosed examples of diols and diamines that are symmetric, applicants have not provided support for the concept of using diols and diamines that are exclusively symmetric, other than the **exemplified symmetric diols and diamines**, within the invention. (Emphasis added).

Applicants submit that the claims are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and reverse his rejection of Claims 1-11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for containing subject matter which was not described in such a way as to

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reasonably convey that applicants were in possession of the claimed invention at the time of filing of the instant application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

Applicants have amended Claim 9 to change the term "comprising" to --is--. Applicants submit that because of this change, Claim 9 is in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and reverse his rejection of that Claim under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,166,166 issued to Taylor et al. The Examiner contends that the declaration filed March 5, 2003 is improper as not all of the inventors have executed it. Although applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner, they herewith submit declarations under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 from each of the named inventors, unequivocally declaring that any instantly claimed subject matter disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 6,166,166 was invented by them. Applicants contend, therefore, the presently claimed subject matter cannot be considered to have been invented "by another" as defined in 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Therefore, applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and reverse his rejection of Claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,166,166 issued to Taylor et al.

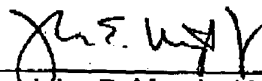
Conclusion

Applicants have amended Claim 9. Applicants contend that such claim amendments add no new matter and find support in the specification.

Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested for Claims 1-14. If the Examiner is of the opinion that the instant application is in condition for other than allowance, he is requested to contact the applicants' Attorney at the telephone number listed below, so that additional changes to the claims may be discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

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